

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 /097 W
-----012763 090411Z /63

R 081035Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5140
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMDGSSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 7831

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, AF, TC, BA, IZ, IR, PK, UR
SUBJECT: AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON HIS TRIP TO THE
PERSIAN GULF

REF: KABUL 7549

1. SUMMARY. WAHEED ABDULLAH, AFGHANISTAN'S MINISTER-
IN-CHARGE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAS CONFIRMED TO ME THAT THE
BASIC PURPOSE FOR HIS RECENT TRIP LC SEVERAL PERSIAN GULF
LITTORAL STATES WAS A SEARCH FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
FROM THESE OIL-RICH COUNTRIES (REFTEL). HE FELT THAT THE RESULTS
OF THE TRIP WERE POSITIVE, BECAUSE HE ACHIEVED WHAT HE VIEWED
AS A COMMITMENT FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FOR AN EXTENSION
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OF ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL HELP TO AFGHANISTAN. ON THE POLITICAL
FRONT, WAHEED ABDULLAH FELT THAT HE SUCCEEDED IN EXPLAINING THE
AFGHAN POSITION RE PAKISTAN
AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS SO WELL THAT
A NUMBER OF MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT AFGHAN MOTIVES WHICH HAD BEEN
HELP BY CERTAIN PERSIAN GULF LEADERS WERE NRRECTED. HE ALSO
SENSED THAT THE IRAQIS WERE PUTTING MORE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM-

SELVES AND THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

2. I HAD MY FIRST TOUR D'HORIZON NOVEMBER 5 WITH AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH SINCE HIS RETURN FROM HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE HE ATTENDED THE UNGA AND TOURED CALIFORNIA), AND TO SEVERAL PERSIAN GULF STATES. HE TOLD ME THAT THE ESSENTIAL REASON FOR HIS VISITS TO BAGHDAD, BAHRAIN AND ABU DHABI WAS TO SOLICIT INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE ADDED THAT HE CHE AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES WAS WILLING TO MAKE A "SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION" TOWARD AFGHAN DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR KABUL WHICH THE AFGHANS WOULD LIKE TO CONSTRUCT IN LOGAR PROVINCE, SOUTH OF THE CITY. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SUM BEING CONSIDERED BY THE UAE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO COVER THE ENTIRE AIRPORT PROJECT, AND THAT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WILL HAVE TO COME FROM ELSEWHERE.

3. ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, WAHEED ABDULLAH SAID THAT IT WAS HIS

GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT THE IRAQIS WERE STEADILY PUTTING MORE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THE USSR. HE COMMENTED THAT DURING DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT IN TEHRAN, IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABAS ALI KHALATBARI HAD AGREED WITH THIS ASSESSMENT.

4. AS FOR THE REASON WHY BAGHDAD CONTINUES TO BALK AT A RESTORATION OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELTIONS WITH THE U.S., ABDULLAH OPINED
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IPHAN AN ANTI-U.S. POSTURE WAS PROBABLY USEFUL TO THE IRAQIS IN TWO WAYS: FIRSTLY, THE IRAQI BA'ATHISTS BELIEVE THAT IT ASSISTS THEM IN MAINTAINING A FIRM IDEOLOGICAL STANCE IN THEIR STIFF COMPETITION WITH THEIR SYRIAN COUNTERPARTS; AND, SECONDLY, THE IRAQIS SEE IT AS A WAY IN WHICH THEY CAN OFFER A CLEARLY DIFFERENT OPTION TO THE ARAB WORLD AS THEY ATTEMPT TO SEIZE THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP FROM EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT.

5. WAHEED ABDULLAH CLAIMED THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISPEL CERTAIN MISCONCEPTIONS WHICH UNIDENTIFIED PERSIAN GULF LEADERS HAD HELD REGARDING AFGHAN-PAKISTANI RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT, AS A RESULT OF HIS VISIT, THESE LEADERS WERE NO LONGER CONVINCED, AS THEY APPARENTLY HAD BEEN, THAT AFGHANISTAN WAS INTERESTED IN THE POLITICAL DISINTEGRATION OF PAKISTAN. ABDULLAH BELIEVES THAT THEY NOW UNDERSTAND THAT KABUL SEES THE CONTINUED STABILITY AND UNITY OF PAKISTAN AS BEING IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF AFGHANISTAN.

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6. COMMENT: THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS IN A NOTABLY CONFIDENT MOOD, AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THE OVERALL RESULTS OF HIS VISIT TO THE GULF STATES. HIS APPRAISAL OF THE DIRECTION IN WHICH IRAQ IS MOVING IS SHARED BY MOHAMMAD SEDDIQ SALJOOQUE, DIRECTOR OF HIS MINISTRY'S SECOND POLITICAL SECTION (MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA), WHO RECENTLY TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE CONTRAST BETWEEN WHAT HE SAW IN IRAQ DURING SALJOOQUE'S FIRST VISIT TO BAGHDAD NOT QUITE TWENTY YEARS AGO AND WHAT HE SAW DURING LAST MONTH'S TRIP WITH WAHEED ABDULLAH WAS "REMARKABLE," ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE APPARENT ABSENCE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE, AND THE VISIBLE SURFEIT OF WESTERN GOODS.
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